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EDITORS.

Original.

SOME QUESTIONS IN GYNECOLOGY.

Part III.

BY L. S. OPPENHEIMER, M. D.

Dr. Martineau, of the Lourcine Hospital, Paris, adds to this list, herpetism (dartres) and "arthritis."*

HERPETISM.

The first definite description, to my knowledge, of this condition is given by Hardy in his work on diseases of the skin. The following is a brief summary of the indications laid down by him:

The subjects usually seem to be in absolute health upon a superficial, careless examination. Further investigation reveals, however, that the skin is dry, but little perspiration taking place; fugitive light eruptions at times, particularly around the anus; appetite generally above the normal, but very variable; susceptibility of skin to show slight and fugitive irritations, and as well the effects of certain aliments, such as coffee, excess of alcohol, etc.; of local excitations, such as plasters, etc., which give rise to an eruption, light, not herpetical in nature, but which nevertheless demonstrates the susceptibility of the economy, which only requires a favorable occasion in order to show itself.

This is Hardy's definition of herpetism. It is, however, neither so definite nor complete as it should be. He speaks of the usual absence of perspiration. In the writer's experience, some of these cases have at times quite intense perspirations; in all of them wounds of any kind heal very

slowly, and hemorrhages are not always easily checked. Menses are commonly superabundant. As to the eruption being particularly around the anus, I can not agree with Hardy, for it is common to all the mucous orifices of the body, and occurs inside as well as outside of these orifices, and particularly at the time of the menses.

Now, this description is a fair picture of cases which have come under the eye of almost every practitioner, only that the whole category of signs as above described were not always present. For example, one patient may have a very irritable skin without being subject to any of the secondary effects of any aliment whatsoever taken into the stomach, and *vice versa*. Then there are cases where the transpiration of the whole surface of the body is absent, even that of the axillary glands, and still all the other signs above alluded to wanting; but I think myself safe in saying, that when all the signs above referred to by Hardy exist in the same patient, the condition may, more or less appropriately, be called "herpetism;" because these are the cases which are most liable to develop eczemas and herpes of the mucous membranes, as well as of the skin, both spontaneously and traumatically.*

"It is possibly," as Dr. Pidoux says,† "a fusion of other diseases, such as scrofula and rheumatism, etc.;" but this is a theory which my experience does not permit me to argue. Many of the cases which I have investigated lead me to believe, that inasmuch as neither the former existence of scrofula nor any

*As to the question of the pathology of eczema, I would only say that, according to my observations, it may occur wherever glands of any kind exist, be these sudoriparous, sebaceous, mucous, or other.

† Inspector of the Waters of Bonn.

**Traité Clinique des Affections de l'Uterus et de ses Annexes.* Paris, 1878. Prem. Partie.

other trouble could be firmly proven, that the origin of herpeticism can not be considered a settled question. In many other cases of eczema, however, the scrofulous nature of the disease is very palpable, notwithstanding that the upholders of the "constitutional doctrine" give it the name of "herpeticism." But that herpeticism does exist as a general disease—or, more properly said, perhaps, as a *symptom* of a constitutional disease—there can be but little doubt; nor is it so rare as many would suppose.

There have been many cases of herpes affecting the genital canal published, which were very palpably of a general nature. Such cases are reported by Noel Gueneau de Mussy,* Duparque,† Bordier,‡ and others. These cases not only had herpes or eczema of the genitals, but had in addition other cutaneous eruptions on the body at the time, or at some time shortly before; and in other cases, a clear family history of scrofulous troubles or of herpeticism was revealed.

It were well not to confound the acne, or the ordinary follicular hypertrophies, and the common ulcerations usually found in the genital canal, with herpes or eczema. You are familiar with all this. I only wish to say, that the herpes of the mucous membranes resembles commonly the *herpes labialis*. The vesicles are ordinarily grouped together, with irregular, sinuous margins, and somewhat redder than the neighboring parts, particularly toward the center of the eruption, where the vesicles are smaller and heaped together, while the surrounding vesicles are larger and more scattered. Some of these cases are entirely local diseases, disappearing in a few days, often without any treatment whatever; this probably being the reason that it is not more frequently met with in private practice.

RHEUMATISM.

The last of these constitutional diseases mentioned by the writers, is called by the

French, "arthritisme,"* by which name they imply *rheumatism* and *gout*.

This disease is almost as frequent, and almost as definite in its specific action on the uterus, as the foregoing affection. Like all the other diseases here reported, this one also has its opponents; that is, they deny any peculiar action upon the uterus. This question will be discussed at more length further on in the course of this paper; *a priori* I shall take its existence for granted, and shall here lay down the most prominent specific effects on the uterus.

Under its influence we meet with violent uterine congestions, with acute and frequent paroxysms, metritis accompanied by ulcerations and granulations, concomitant with vaginal congestions, follicular inflammations, etc. The endometritis in most of these subjects is of an irritable nature, inflammatory exacerbations from the slightest causes are excessively marked, and the tendency is toward metrorrhagia accompanied by all kinds of sympathetic troubles. These cases usually improve under thermal or hydropathic treatment, but there are others again which are made worse by the same course.

Martineau says, that eruptions often appear upon the vulvo-vaginal mucous membrane, giving rise to vulvitis, vaginitis, and endometritis; concomitant with which, other signs may appear generally, such as erythema nodosum and papulosum, eczema, etc.; and at times, as has been described by Cazalis and Pidoux, bronchitis and pharyngitis.

Dr. Max Nordan says, that an excess in the production of uric acid, and a corresponding decrease in the amount of urea, are constant signs in this diathesis.† L. Duncan Bulkley says, that in nearly all of these subjects the skin is dry, sallow, perspiration rare, and they are very apt to "catch cold" from the slightest causes.

All of these are very probably developed from a single cause in the majority of such cases, this cause being what might be called

* Memoire sur l'herpeticisme uterine. Paris,

† Traite des maladies des femmes.

‡ Gaz. hebdomad., Janv. 1877.

* Inasmuch as this word is apt to mislead in our own application of the term, arthritis, I will simply substitute it by the word *rheumatism*.

† Pester Med.-Chir. Presse, Sept. 1877.

a "rheumatic diathesis." There need not, however, be any marked articular or muscular inflammations accompanying the above phenomena, many of these cases dating from simply "catching cold," in which none of the characteristic symptoms of inflammatory rheumatism have ever presented themselves. The following case from my note-book, the counterpart of which has frequently come under the eye of every physician, will serve to show more explicitly the definition of a rheumatic diathesis as here implied:

J. G., aged twenty years, strong and robust constitution, about eight months before caught a cold while exposed to a draught of air whilst overheated. Menses appeared at proper time, considerably more profuse than they had ever been before; were preceded for several days by muscular fatigue and pains, headache, etc. to an extreme degree. The menses lasted barely two days; returned again in eight days, preceded by same symptoms as before; were equally profuse, and lasted about a day and a half. This weekly appearance of the flow continued for two months, since which time the menstrual molimen has been doubled in frequency, occurring every two weeks, and always preceded by the same muscular soreness and fatigue. This is characteristic of what is termed "remittent menstruation" by Dr. E. C. Tilt.

De Ranse,* speaking of the results of treatment of uterine diseases at a watering-place, publishes cases which, though classified as due to a rheumatic diathesis, might just as possibly be some other disease. Here is one such case:

Woman, aged thirty-two years, with subacute rheumatism; has granular pharyngitis; has had eczema of both ears; was treated several years before for granular metritis; to-day, metritis and menorrhagia. *Much improved by thermal treatment.*

That is to say, that because thermal treatment improved it, it must have been due to the rheumatism. This, however, is no criterion whatever, inasmuch as all kinds of cases improve under thermal and hydro-

pathic treatment, and at other times cases of rheumatism are made worse.

I do not mean to deny that Dr. de Ranse was correct in his diagnosis, but wish simply to demonstrate the difficulty in making these diagnoses correctly. He mentions one important point which may lead to making the cause of the malady more definitely known. He says that in the rheumatic cases of metritis, the local trouble, as well as the general pains, are made worse at first by the hydropathic treatment, but soon become markedly better after it has been continued for some time.

LOUISVILLE.

Correspondence.

To the Editors of the Louisville Medical News:

I venture to give below the notes I have made of a week's work in the London hospitals:

Carcinoma.—In a male, aged thirty-five. Three years since was operated on for a tumor behind the right shoulder. The growth being removed and the wound cicatrizing, the tumor returned in eight months; was removed a second time, but refused to heal, and a fresh mass appeared in the original site. One year after, this too was removed and healed; but in three weeks after returned, and was removed for the fourth time. It did not re-appear until January last, when he was treated for eight weeks by poulticing and lotions until he returned to hospital, May 15th, with a large circular fungous growth situated over the upper portion of the right scapula and involving the outer end of clavicle, measuring thirty-two inches in circumference. The glands in the axilla and about the clavicle were not enlarged, though the use of the arm was nearly lost and the patient much emaciated. An operation at this time involved the removal of the scapula, and to the man afforded but small chance of recovery; yet, as he was desirous of having it performed, on May 23d, while under ether, the operation, which consisted in removing

* *Gaz. Médicale*, Avril, 1877.

the scapula and arm and outer end of clavicle, was done antiseptically. The flap was taken from the arm, and was sufficient to cover the wound (eight and a half by six and a half inches). Esmarch's bandage was applied to the arm and the subclavian artery pressed against the rib, whereby the patient lost but little blood. The wound was dressed antiseptically. The patient died the following night, never having recovered from the shock. The autopsy revealed a second carcinomatous deposit as large as a goose-egg in the right lung.

Epithelioma of the Chin.—Male, aged fifty-six. The first growth appeared on the lip; was removed, and afterward came on the chin. It was then removed, along with the greater part of this portion of inferior maxilla. It re-appeared after the expiration of two years in the same place. The bones left were too thin to allow of further removal, so the growth was removed with the thermo-cautery knife in the hope of giving relief, at least for some months.

Epithelioma of the Labia and Hemorrhoids.—Female, aged forty-three. She had been treated by a private practitioner who, failing to cure her, sent her to hospital. It was completely excised with the thermo-cautery knife, and though quite vascular not more than half an ounce of blood was lost. The hemorrhoids were treated by puncturing each distinct pile with the thermo-cautery needle.

Epithelioma.—Male, aged forty-eight. Two years previous a growth appeared in the right inguinal region, but as it grew very slowly and was only a little sore he paid no attention to it, and had received no treatment when he entered the hospital. The disease occupied a space as large as a silver dollar, and was raised to half an inch in thickness. On removal its attachments were found to be quite shallow. The edges of incision were approximated by metallic sutures and the wound healed by immediate union.

Tumor of Antrum.—1. Female, aged forty-five, presented a tumor of two years' stand-

ing in the right cheek. It followed a severe cold in the head. On examination it was found to occupy the antrum, plugging the posterior nares, bulging the soft palate, and protruding in front. It was thought possible before operating to save the maxilla, but on dividing the bone at its internal angle it was found softened, and it therefore became necessary to remove it along with the tumor. The external incision extended through center of lip to nose. Hemorrhage was controlled by the actual cautery, mopping the wound with a strong solution of chloride of zinc, and plugging with lint. The incision in the lip was closed by hare-lip pins and collodion. The tumor was supposed to have resulted from a pent-up abscess which eventually involved the surrounding parts.

2. Male, aged forty-six, presented a non-malignant tumor in left antrum of three years standing and pressing the orbital plate up, causing the eye to protrude and the palate to be pushed far down into the mouth. The lines of external incision extended from the inner angle of the eye down the side of the nose, round the ala, and down the center of the lip. Another reached horizontally below the orbit to its external angle. The maxillary was found so softened the principal cutting was done with curved scissors. The facial artery required to be ligated; otherwise the hemorrhage was very slight. The incisions were closed by hare-lip pins and metallic sutures. The operation was performed without anæsthesia.

Compression of Brain.—Male, aged thirty-two. Three years before entering the hospital he received, on the left temple, a blow from a plank which produced insensibility at the time, and was followed by constant headache, but he was able to go about. Two weeks later aphasia began. On entering the hospital he was unable to express his wants, repeating over and over again the same words. He had a convulsion shortly after being admitted, followed by marked symptoms of compression, though an examination of the head revealed no sign of external fracture or scalp injury, no blood, or

serous fluid from the ear or nose, no discoloration under conjunctival or upper eyelid, and no spontaneous vomiting. The next day he was speechless and almost comatose, capable of being but slightly roused and of partially protruding the tongue; the left eyelid drooped; the pupils were unequal; pulse 60. Second day: quite comatose; feces and urine passed in bed; pupils dilated and insensible to the light; respiration 24; pulse 74; temperature 101.8°. Death occurred on the following morning. The autopsy revealed no injury to the scalp or the skull-cap, but an extensive blood-clot was found between the duramater and brain, extending from the front of the left anterior lobe throughout nearly the entire of this hemisphere, though most marked in front.

Strangulated Inguinal Hernia of Omentum.—Female, aged forty-two. For three or four years she had frequently found a tumor in the left side after straining at stool, but was able to reduce it herself until the present time. She complained of severe pain in the groin, and had vomiting. In the left inguinal region was seen a tumor the size of a walnut, the nature of which was easily discerned, though difficult to decide whether a piece of intestine was included or not. An incision was made three inches in length and nearly parallel to Poupart's ligament. A large piece of omentum was exposed. The strangulated portion was separated from its adhesions, tied with catgut, cut off, and the stump returned. The cut was brought together by metallic sutures and a drainage tube inserted. Two days after some abdominal pains set in along with anxious countenance, diarrhea, and anorexia; pulse 140; temperature 102°; vomiting occasionally. For these troubles one third grain of morphia was given every three hours hypodermically. In forty-eight hours after the diarrhea was checked the patient was able to take milk; pulse 90; temperature 100°; wound healing. On the sixth day the anxious countenance had disappeared; appetite improved; takes eggs with milk; pulse and temperature nearly normal;

wound granulating well. Patient fully convalescent.

Collection of Pus in Fascia and Muscles around Knee-joint, showing the sudden rise in temperature after leaving off Antiseptic, and fall after its renewal.—Girl, aged six, fell on her knee, causing considerable pain at the time. The parts were poulticed for ten days, but, finding things getting worse, patient entered hospital. The knee was found much enlarged, the swelling extending over the joint, with indistinct fluctuation; patient peevish; hectic; pulse 106; temperature 99.5°. A free incision on outer side of patella gave exit to about ten ounces of pus. An exploration of the parts discovered that the mischief was limited to the fascia and muscles, and did not extend into the joint. The parts were dressed antiseptically three times a day. In two days the swelling had nearly disappeared; discharge slight; general health much improved; pulse and temperature normal. The antiseptic dressing was now discontinued. Two days after the patient became very restless, pulse rose to 124, temperature to 103°, and matter was found to be burrowing under the muscles. A counter-incision was now made, a drainage-tube inserted, and the antiseptic renewed. In two days after the pulse fell to 100, the temperature to 99°, and general condition again improved. Four days after pulse and temperature became normal, discharge ceased, and incisions begin to heal.

Congenital absence of Anus, with Recto Vaginal Fistula, and Passage of Motions through Vulva.—Girl, aged fourteen. Two months previous the anus was made by dissecting the skin and fascia from its natural situation, bringing down the mucous membrane of rectum, and stitching it around to the raw surface of integument. After it had thoroughly healed, and the motions could be passed naturally, the edges of the fistula were pared and retained in apposition by metallic sutures. The rectum was washed out and an opiate given to prevent any movement of bowels till the fistula could unite.

LONDON, June 12th. D. A. COYLE, M. D.

Reviews.

Neuralgia and its Modern Therapeutics. By JAMES B. BAIRD, M. D., Atlanta, Ga. Reprinted from the Transactions of the Medical Association of Georgia. Atlanta, Ga.: James P. Harrison & Co., printers.

A valuable monograph, full of practical good sense, and worthy the perusal of every physician. The author has learned from clinical experience the vital fact that malaria is the chief source of the neuralgias, at least, he says, in Georgia.

What Dr. Baird finds to be true of neuralgias in Georgia is equally true of neuralgias in all other portions of the world. When doctors shall treat these painful neuroses with reference to their cause, and not with reference to any particular pair of nerves, suffering humanity will rejoice in the beneficent consequences. Most neuralgias are curable by quinine and iron, no matter what be their situation.

The following are Dr. Baird's conclusions:

1. Neuralgia, literally considered, is not a disease, but a symptom of some unknown pathological state of a sensory nervous trunk, fiber, or filament.
2. It is characterized by attacks of pain of greater or less intensity, frequency, and duration.
3. The pain is paroxysmal, being marked by more or less complete and protracted remissions or intermissions.
4. The causes of neuralgia are numerous, but the most frequent cause, in the opinion of the writer, in this country at least, is malaria.
5. Its essential pathological nature is unknown.
6. The diagnosis as to the existence of the affection is ordinarily sufficiently easy, though the attempt to trace its origin is frequently attended with much difficulty.
7. The prognosis depends upon the cause and our ability to remove it by the means of treatment at our disposal.
8. The treatment should be constitutional and local.
9. The general treatment should be directed, as far as our knowledge of suspicions will warrant, against the cause of the attack. It should be persevered in with a view of removing any supposed taint or infection that may exist, and of augmenting the powers of the system.
10. Apart from any constitutional therapeutic in-

dications, electricity and morphia hypodermically are the most reliable remedies that we possess.

11. Galvanism is by far the most efficient form in which electricity can be administered.

12. To secure the best attainable results, galvanization must be used intelligently, and in many cases perseveringly.

L. P. Y.

Books and Pamphlets.

SUBCUTANEOUS OSTEOTOMY: Illustrated by a Case in which the Femur was sawn through the Neck, and also through the Shaft. By H. Lenox Hodge, M. D., of Philadelphia. Read before the Philadelphia County Medical Society, January 9, 1878. Reprinted from the Medical and Surgical Reporter. Philadelphia: Jas. A. Moore, printer, 1222 and 1224 Sansom Street, 1878.

A valuable addition to the literature of an important subject.

ADDRESS BEFORE THE McDOWELL MEDICAL SOCIETY. By J. W. Pritchett, M. D., President, of Madisonville, Ky., at its meeting in Henderson, Ky., May 8, 1878. Madisonville: Times Job-printing office, 1878.

Written in an off-hand, pleasant style, plain and practical.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE REPORT OF A CASE OF XENOMENIA. By Theophilus Parvin, M. D., Indianapolis, Ind. Reprinted from Vol. II, Gynecological Transactions, 1878.

The supplement is accompanied by heliotypes of this marvelous case of vicarious menstruation¹ from the lungs and lower lip.

ADDRESS IN SURGERY: Delivered before the Medical Society of the State of Pennsylvania, at its annual session, held in Harrisburg, June, 1877. By H. Lenox Hodge, M. D. Extracted from the Transactions. Philadelphia: Collins, printer, 705 Jayne St. 1877.

A good paper full of interest to the surgeon.

AMERICAN CLUB-LIST AND SPORTSMAN'S GLOSSARY. Halleck. New York: Forest and Stream Publishing Company.

A useful book for sportsmen. It contains a list of all the hunting, fishing, boating, athletic, kennel, and baseball clubs of the country; also a glossary of sporting terms, club constitutions, rules, etc.

TETANUS AFTER OVARIOTOMY. By Theophilus Parvin, M. D., Indianapolis, Ind. Reprinted from Vol. II, Gynecological Transactions, 1878.

Professor Parvin reports a case in his own practice of death from tetanus following ovariectomy, and enumerates sixteen others. Death occurred in all save one.

Miscellany.

A SUBSTITUTE FOR CALOMEL.—Sulphate of manganese, according to Dr. Goolden, in the London Lancet of June 15, 1878, is a most excellent substitute for mercury in the various bilious troubles. In jaundice, hepatic dropsy, and hypochondriasis it has produced most remarkable results, and in hemorrhoids and in congestion of the fauces and bronchia it has proved no less efficacious. Anæmic patients who can not take any of the preparations of iron are enabled to take iron with benefit if combined with two to five grains of sulphate of manganese. Its taste is not unlike that of epsom salts, but it is less bitter. Dr. Goolden prefers to administer the manganese in ten grains to a scruple dose, in a glass of water, adding a little citrate of magnesia to cause effervescence. By these doses large bilious dejections are produced. Half a drachm is the utmost dose ever necessary, and ten grains is usually quite sufficient. The larger doses sometimes produce decided though temporary nausea, and this may be avoided by adding a small quantity of epsom salts. Its action is attended by neither griping nor depression; neither the heart's action nor the pulse are altered.

Dr. Goolden has employed this medicine freely in private and hospital practice for more than thirty-five years. We hope the readers of the NEWS will give this medicine a fair trial. The popular prejudice against mercury engendered partly by our former injudicious use of the drug, and partly by the mercenary cant of the quacks, is still great, and often patients are unwilling to take mercurials. If sulphate of manganese

proves a successful substitute for mercury, the profession will be under great obligations to Dr. Goolden for bringing its virtues again into notice. The remedy is an old one, and is mentioned in the U. S. Dispensatory.

THE Michigan Medical News, in commenting on the address of Dr. Gray before the American Medical Journal Association, is at a loss to know wherein the subject he had chosen, "The Commitment of the Insane," was germane to the occasion. We thought that there was a little grim humor in the selection. We agree with our accomplished namesake upon the general interest of Dr. Gray's remarks. Dr. Brodie will deliver the address at Atlanta next spring, and the News promises that he will consider matters of direct interest to the medical journalistic fraternity. We beg to suggest to our genial friend several topics, and feel quite sure that in a choice of any of them he will not go far amiss. Here they are: "Experimentation upon advertising agencies with nitro-glycerine;" "How to feed printers on chromos, sewing-machines, patent watches, grand pianos, fluid extracts, etc.;" "The relations (if any) between published advertising rates and 'what will be accepted.'" These for those of a business turn of mind. For the moralist these: "Can the specimen-number man get to heaven?" "Which is the driest—a patent-office 'report,' sawdust, or the ordinary abstract from the German?" "How to decline a communication pleasantly;" "How to convince a contributor that verbal errors in printing, due to his bad writing, will not eternally damage his reputation in the eyes of the profession noted for its scrutiny, and thirsting to obtain his views," etc. These for the present; more if a choice can not be made.

LECTURES on sick-room cooking are given to the medical students of Edinburgh by Miss Dodds, and are said to be largely attended and highly appreciated.

ROMEO'S APOTHECARY.

I do remember an apothecary,
 And hereabouts he dwells—but his shop
 Is on the corner of Capulet and
 Market streets—whom late I noted
 Wearing his ulster in June, with
 Overwhelming brows and a bad nose,
 Culling of simples; meager were his looks,
 Sharp misery, dodging his landlord,
 And sitting on a nail-keg
 Waiting for customers had worn him
 To the bones; and in his needy shop
 A tortoise hung, an alligator stuff'd,
 And other skins and skeletons of ill-shaped
 Birds and fishes, including several bunches
 Of peppermint, tansy, horse-radish, and Injun-turnip;
 And about his shelves a beggarly account
 Of empty boxes and fruit-cans, bladders,
 Musty seeds, roots, barks, and herbs; empty flasks
 Of pint and quart sizes, with
 Candy-jars labeled in gold: *E Pluribus Unum*,
Fiat Justitia, *Tempus Fugit*, *Vox Populi*,
Sanctum Sanctorum, *Sic Semper Tyrannis*,
Spiritus Frumenti, *Spirits-for-you-red-eye*,
Hark-I-hear-an-angel-sing, and other things
 Usually kept in first-class drug-stores.
 All these were thinly scattered to make up a show.
 Noting this penury, to myself I said:
 And if on a Sunday morn a man did need
 A whisky-sling to brace up his
 System before church, or a
 Flask filled to keep it in the house
 In case of sickness, whose sale
 On such a day is 'gainst the law in Mantua,
 Here lives a caitiff wretch who would sell it him.
 O, this same thought did forerun my need;
 And this same seedy man must sell it me!
 As I remember, this must be the place;
 Being Sunday, the beggar's shop is shut;
 So I will hie me gaily 'round,
 And on the back door gently knock me:
 Hist! ho! good apothecary!

—*Oil City Derrick.*

SULPHO-ARSENICAL ATMOSPHERE IN PULMONARY DISORDERS.—In the Boston Medical Journal for June 27th, Dr. Horatio R. Storer, of Newport, R. I., has a very interesting paper upon the cure of "Strumous Disease by the Solfatara Method." Dr. Storer has but lately returned from Europe after a five years absence, and while abroad gave the subject of Health-resorts and Climate-cure a special study. While in Italy he learned that several of the more noted Neapolitan phy-

sicians were commencing to claim for Pozzuoli an exceptional excellence of a wholly different character, asserting that a portion of it had an atmosphere of its own, perceptibly charged not with sulphur merely, but with arsenic, from the semi-extinct volcanic crater known as the Solfatara, which, from but slightly rising above the level of the adjoining country, is easily accessible on foot, by donkey, or by sedan-chair, to the most feeble invalid. The breathing of this sulpho-arsenical atmosphere, it was stated, not only theoretically promised to be of benefit in cases of threatened or actual pulmonary tuberculosis, after repeated visits to the crater, extending over a longer or shorter period, but had in fact been proved so by actual experiment. Dr. Storer made an experiment with his own son, a lad of eighteen, in whom, while marked physical signs had been wanting, all the rational symptoms "had long been those of progressing pulmonary, or at any rate strumous disease."

WAR AMONG THE DRUGGISTS.—Druggist and Chemist: If competition is the life of trade, there should be considerable vitality among the dispensing druggists in Philadelphia. Some time since a prominent vender advertised camphor at the package-price by the pound; this was followed by corresponding reductions in foreign perfumery, leading proprietary articles, etc. Of course his neighbors and others in the same line would not permit their customers to leave them, and the result is that the citizens of Philadelphia can obtain many items from drug-stores at (hitherto) unheard-of rates. It is doubtful if this system can be maintained, as the business generally, owing to the great number of stores, is not over-remunerative.

PARALYSIS CURED BY FRIGHT.—A madman in a French hospital recently attacked the inmates of a female ward, stabbing and killing right and left, when one of the patients suffering from paralysis was so terrified that she jumped out of bed and walked out of the ward.

NUMBER OF THE PULSATIONS OF THE HEART DURING LIFE.—*Rev. Med.*: Dr. Guyot, after consulting the best authorities on the subject, and making the necessary calculations, has determined that the number of pulsations during the different ages of life are as follows: During the first year, 63,000,000 (we only transcribe the round numbers); during the first two years, 120,000,000; during the first eight years, 435,000,000; during the first twelve years, 614,000,000; during the first fourteen years, 698,000,000; during the twenty-three years, from fifteen to thirty-six inclusively, 1,229,904,900; during a life of fifty years, 1,928,160,000; during a life of sixty years, 2,269,800,000; and during a life of eighty years, 3,007,040,000. To these figures, applicable to an individual in constant good health, have to be added the pulsations of fetal life, calculated at 27,216,000. The total number of contractions in a centenarian would amount to 3,792,550,000, or nearly four thousand millions.

TUBERCLE.—*London Lancet*: Is there any organ or tissue of the body which is not occasionally the seat of the formation of tubercles? It is doubtful whether the careful investigation of the present generation of workers will long permit an affirmative answer to this question. The occurrence of tubercles has now been noted in structures in which it was thought, not long ago, that they were never found, and it seems probable that soon their occasional occurrence will be traced in every part. We lately noted some interesting observations of the occurrence of distinct tubercular formations in voluntary muscles, and now we have to call attention to recent facts which demonstrate that tubercular ulceration of the tongue is met with; rarely it is true, but with a distinctness which suggests that when its occurrence is generally known, its rarity may be found to be less than is commonly supposed. The condition is not in itself surprising when we reflect how constantly tubercular formations are met with in other parts of the alimentary tract.

DR. BROWN-SÉQUARD.—The eminent physiologist, Dr. Brown-Séquad, has been selected as the successor of Claude Bernard in the professorship of the College of France. The qualifications of Dr. Brown-Séquad for the vacant office are beyond question, and his appointment will be hailed as a graceful recognition of scientific work not yet adequately appreciated. Perhaps few individual investigators have done more to elucidate the obscure features of brain and nerve organization than Brown-Séquad; certainly scarcely any physician has contributed so largely to the understanding and rational treatment of morbid conditions. The profession in England, and we believe on the continent, will be gratified by the choice which has been made, and science will look with confidence for the completion of investigations which Dr. Brown-Séquad has still on hand.—*Ex.*

BEWARE OF TINCTURES.—Druggist and Chemist: An exchange says, "Beware of tinctures made from fluid extracts, unless the druggist uses those from a reliable manufacturer. Most of the tinctures now dispensed are about the strength of colored water." Better advice is, make your own tinctures, and without the aid of fluid-extracts.

ON THE CONTAGION OF INSANITY.—*Drs. Ch. Laségue and J. Falret* (*Annales Médico-Psychologiques*, Nov., 1877) make a combined attempt to establish the theory that certain forms of insanity are contagious. The cases brought forward in proof of this fact are somewhat similar, three of them are instances of insanity being conveyed from an insane mother to a hysterical daughter strongly predisposed to mental disorder; one where two old maids imparted the malady to an adopted orphan; another in which two other old maids gave it one to the other; and finally two more cases where two widows succeeded in inoculating with similar hallucinations two ladies separated from their husbands.

PERIOD OF INCUBATION OF SCARLET FEVER.—*London Lancet*: Dr. Murchison, at a late meeting of the Clinical Society, stated that authorities upon the incubation-period of scarlet fever give a range varying from twenty-four hours to a month; but the results of his own experience, extending over a period of twenty years, had persuaded him that the shorter period was nearer the truth than the longer. His paper contains details of seventy-five cases, and the general conclusions arrived at upon the data they afford was that the duration of the incubation-period of scarlet fever may be but a few hours (in one case it was certainly only eighteen hours), that it seldom exceeds forty-eight hours, and very rarely reaches as much as seven days. From which it follows that, if a person who has been exposed to the scarlet-fever poison does not take the fever after a week's quarantine, he is practically safe from infection. Dr. Murchison added that he had always acted upon this rule, and had never found it to fail.

THE ALKALOIDS OF CINCHONA.—Charles Rice, in *New Remedies*, describes no less than twenty-six alkaloids as follows: Quinia, quinidia, cinchonia, cinchonidia, quinamia, quinidamia, homocinchonia, homocinchonidia, paytia, cusconia, aricia, javania, dihomocinchonia, paytamia, cusconidia, dicinchonia, diquinidia, paricia, a liquid not named, quinicia, cinchonicia, quinamidia, quinamicia, homocinchonicia, apoquinamia, protoquinamicia. The first four are the only ones used in medicine.

QUID SPECULUM POSSIT.—*Lyon Médical*: One of our most skillful practitioners recently had occasion to employ the vaginal speculum in the examination of a lady. The examination finished, he was about to withdraw the instrument, when he felt a light touch on his shoulder. "Excuse me, doctor, said the patient; "I have long suffered from pain in the stomach. *While you are there* can you not tell me what is the matter?"

Dr. J. B. RUSSELL, the medical officer of health for Glasgow, has recently called attention, in an elaborate paper, to the intimate relation between the fatality of diphtheria and the amount of communication with the sewers (through water-closets, sinks, waste-pipes, etc.) existing within the Glasgow houses. He points out that whereas the fatality from all zymotic diseases, except diphtheria and enteric fever, is greatest in the poorest tenements of one or two rooms, the mortality from diphtheria and enteric fever is greatest in the better-class houses, where internal communications with the sewers more frequently exist. The extent to which the atmosphere of most town residential houses is poisoned by sewer-gas is far too generally overlooked.—*London Lancet*.

SIMPLE ULCER OF THE STOMACH TREATED BY CHLORAL HYDRATE.—Hertka, of Buda Pesth (*L'Abeille Médicale*), treated a severe case with success. He gave Carlsbad water with it to facilitate the decomposition of the chloral. The dose should be about five grains every two hours, so that thirty grains be given daily in a solution of one in forty-five, or weaker.—*London Doctor*.

ON DELIRIUM PRECEDING THE ERUPTION OF SMALL-POX.—Dr. Zippe relates (*Allgem. Zeitschrift für Psychiatrie*) a case of considerable interest from a medico-legal point of view, in which a man who had murdered one of his children was acquitted on the ground that the act had been committed while the prisoner was suffering from the primary fever of variola.

BAD MEAT.—According to Prof. Gamgee, the flesh of overdriven animals is said to contain a poison which often produces eczema on the skin of those who handle it. If it has such an effect upon the comparatively hard cuticle of the hand, what may be its action on the more sensitive mucous membrane of the human stomach that is unfortunate enough to receive it?—*London Lancet*.

FORMATION OF FAT IN THE HUMAN BODY.

London Lancet: The fattening that may take place on a starchy diet, and which is well known to occur in negroes during the sugar-season, when they habitually consume a large amount of sugar, are unequivocal proofs that man, like the bee, can manufacture fat from the carbo-hydrates; but it would seem to be equally probable that he can form it from the albuminous compounds when the farinaceous and saccharine elements happen to be deficient in his ordinary diet, while a combination of both is certainly best adapted for the supply and maintenance of that moderate amount which should be present in every healthy person.

THE USES OF ANATOMY.—Mr. Hensman draws attention, in the London Lancet for March 16th, to the uses to which a knowledge of anatomy may be applied. Stuart's clavicular wheel for carriages claims a great form of strength coupled with lightness. It is strictly modelled after the human clavicle; that is to say, each spoke is curved precisely as the clavicle itself; and, true to his pattern, Mr. Stuart has flattened the outer curve, thus rendering the weaker one strong, to resist where the strain is heaviest. He has followed the shape of the inner curve, even in copying the ridges that bound the subclavicle groove, and thus materially adds to the strength of the spoke.

It is asserted that a man's finger-nails grow their complete length in four months and a half. A man living seventy years renews his nails one hundred and eighty times. Allowing each nail to be half an inch long, he has grown seven feet nine inches of finger-nail on each finger, and on fingers and thumbs an aggregate of seventy-seven feet and six inches.

Up to January, 1877, Sir Henry Thompson had performed five hundred operations for stone in the bladder of adult males. The proportion of deaths was one to eight and one half.—*Atlanta Med. and Surg. Jour.*

Selections.

Vegetable Parasites.—Dr. Edw. Wigglesworth, of Boston, in Archives of Dermatology:

1. All vegetable parasites of the skin are not inoculable at all times and upon all persons.

2. Varying degrees of intensity or duration of application are needed for successful inoculations of different parasites upon the same skin, the severer cases requiring more thorough inoculation.

3. A healthy skin may resist the action of the less severe but more widely spread mycoses, but yields to the more thorough inoculation of the more severe and rare forms, showing that the resistant power of the soil furnished is a factor to be regarded.

4. Extension and intension are in inverse ratio to each other. The milder mycoses are the more common, and point to an origin upon skins below par in vigor.

5. The various mycoses of the human integument possess each its own distinguishing characteristics, although a transitory stage of growth of one of them may in rare cases, as in the "ringworm-stage" of favus, simulate in appearance one of the forms, temporary or more permanent, of an apparently different species.

6. While botanical and clinical observations are so at variance in reference to the identity or non-identity of the mycoses, this question must be regarded as still undecided.

Croton Oil as a Nerve-tonic.—J. W. Davis, M. D., in Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery: I know of no remedy that will so surely and uniformly arouse nervous energy and relieve paralysis as croton oil, if given properly and judiciously, and continued regularly for a sufficient length of time. I give it in dropsy, neuralgia, paralysis (either general or local), in hysteria, and particularly in certain forms of mania. I generally direct a pill of two grains of blue mass and three fourths of a drop of croton oil, to be given once every two hours, until the bowels are acted upon, and then give an opiate to prevent too much sickness and griping pain. I usually give the pills only twice a week. The pills of croton oil and blue mass can be used for two or three weeks, in the way spoken of above, without any detriment to the general system, and always with benefit in the diseases named. The croton oil does not seem to depress the general system, in proper doses, but has a tendency to arouse up its dormant or latent energies. It has no equal in hysteria and mania, followed by chloral hydrate at night.

In cases of enlarged prostate the exhibition of ergot has proved successful.

Treatment of Amenorrhea.—Union Médicale: Prof. Courty employs a pill composed of powdered rue, savin, and ergot, of each five centigrammes (two to three grains) and aloes, from two to five centigrammes. Of these thirty are ordered, and three are taken the first day, six the second day, and nine the third day, always in three doses. They are suited for cases of idiopathic amenorrhea without great reaction upon the economy, and when there is reason to suppose that the suppression of the menses is due either to an insufficient determination toward the genital organs or to a difficulty of discharge due to inertia of the uterus. In order to encourage the fluxion toward the genital organs, Dr. Courty orders, before beginning the pills, foot-baths, sitz-baths, and fumigations. He also applies leeches to the labia during the three days the pills are being taken. The pills generally induce colicky pains and often a little diarrhea.

Cod-liver Oil with Hypophosphites and Whisky.—New Remedies: The following makes a nice and palatable emulsion:

Ol. morrhuae	fl. 3 iv;
Pulv. acacie	3 ij;
Syrup pruni virg.....	fl. 3 ij;
Spts. frumenti.....	fl. 3 jss;
Calcii hypophosph.....	} aa 3 j;
Sodii hypophosph.....	
Ol. gaultheriae	℥ xxiv;
Ol. amygdalæ ama.....	℥ x;
Aquæ, q. s. ad.....	fl. 3 xij.

Dissolve the hypophosphites in the water; rub the powdered gum arabic with a little of the water to a paste, then add a small quantity of the cod-liver oil, and triturate thoroughly; again add a little of the water, and then some of the oil, alternately, under constant trituration, until they are thoroughly emulsified; dissolve the essential oils in the whisky, mix this with the syrup, and incorporate the latter with the emulsion first formed.

Galactorrhea in Old Women.—Caso (Indépend. Med. de Barcelona and Courier Médical) has observed two cases, one in a woman of sixty-five years, who during her earlier life had had five children, and who had ceased to menstruate ten years before. Although so old, she felt very lively erotic desires. The flux was stopped by ergotine. The second case was in a woman of fifty, affected with cancer uteri. The milk in both cases appeared normal in character.—*The Doctor.*

Quinia Tannate.—New Remedies: The tasteless quinia tannate introduced by Rosznyay has been brought somewhat into discredit by imitations composed of quinia tannate.

Treatment of Glandular Engorgements.—The Doctor: Following the example of Nélaton, Dr. Quinart, a French surgeon, counsels the application of blisters not only on enlarged glands, but on those in which pus has already formed; and he says that by this method he has succeeded in obtaining the resolution of inflamed glands which have already contained many ounces of pus. When the perforation of the skin is imminent, he punctures the tumor at its most depending part, and as soon as the pus has been discharged he covers it with a blister which is extended to a margin beyond its limits. The next day the blistered surface is dressed with mercurial ointment, and a new blister is applied as soon as the first surface begins to dry up.

Arsenate of Gold.—New Remedies: Extraordinary powers have lately been attributed to arsenate of gold as a remedy in nervous affections of every variety. It may be prepared by mixing 1.8 grammes of chloride of gold and sodium (Germ. Pharm.) with 0.55 grammes of neutral, dry sodium arsenate, rubbing the mixture with one gramme of water, and drying again at a moderate temperature. From the published reports it would appear that the remedy had also been used in trituration by homeopaths; and as the dose would naturally have to be quite small, such a method of administration would probably be preferable.

Ergot for Typhoid Fever.—Sireday (La France Médical), following up the observations of Duboué, used ergot in an exceedingly grave case of ataxo-dynamic typhoid, in which the patient upon the twelfth day was delirious, had twitching of the tendons, hyperæsthesia, opisthotonos, etc. He gave two grammes of ergot in twenty-four hours. The next day the amelioration was notable. The treatment was continued with the medicine for three days, and the patient recovered.—*The Doctor.*

Potassium Bromide.—New Remedies: The percentage of potassium chloride present as impurity has ranged from two to five per cent and over. Gehe & Co. make a brand "purissimum," which contains only one half per cent. It is impossible to obtain it entirely pure.

Properties of Dialysed Iron.—New Remedies: Prof. Bouchardat states that theoretically dialysed iron ought to be the least efficacious of any of the preparations of iron, for the following reasons: 1. Because the so-called dialysed iron does not pass through the dialyser, and it must therefore be difficult of absorption. 2. Because, under the influence of minute quantities of alkalis, acids, and divers matters contained in the aliments, it is converted into an insoluble compound.